

GLOSSARY

100-year floodplain	The flat or nearly flat land along a river or stream or in a tidal area that is covered by water during a flood event of such magnitude that it occurs, on average, every 100 years; the 100-year flood equates to a 1-percent chance of occurrence in a given year
alluvial	Pertaining to or consisting of detrital materials that are eroded, transported, and deposited by running water
attainment	A state of compliance with one or more of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)
baling twine	Any of a variety of heavy-duty, natural fiber (for example, sisal) cords or synthetic (for example, polypropylene) lines used to bind harvested agricultural products into large square or round bales or sheaves for transportation and storage; it is also used for many other general purposes
biomass energy	Energy resources derived from organic matter, including wood, agricultural waste, and other living-cell material that can be burned to produce heat energy; also, in energy accounting, the potential stored energy content of living organisms (such as forests or fuel crops) present at a specific time in a defined unit (community, ecosystem, crop, etc.) of the Earth's surface
bottom ash	The coarse, solid, noncombustible particulate matter that results from the combustion of ground or powdered coal and falls to the bottom of a boiler
cellulose	The main polysaccharide (carbohydrate) in living plants, forming the skeletal structure of the plant cell wall
co-fire	The burning of two fuels in the same combustion unit
C-Stone®	An artificial aggregate used as a paving and foundation material
debaler	A mechanical device that uses a cutting, slicing, or ripping action to loosen tightly compacted bales of a harvested agricultural crop such as hay, switchgrass, or cotton
decibel	A standard unit of measuring sound-pressure levels based on a reference sound pressure of 0.0002 dyne per square centimeter (the smallest sound a human can hear)
decibel, A-weighted	A measurement of sound approximating the sensitivity of the human ear and used to characterize the intensity or loudness of sound
decommissioning	The removal from active service of a facility
diamicton	A nonlithified, calcareous, terrigenous sedimentary rock that is not sorted or is poorly sorted and contains particles of many sizes
economizer	A heat recovery section of a furnace that is designed to capture and remove heat from the flue gas as it leaves the furnace
economizer ash	The ash that accumulates at the bottom hopper section of an economizer

environmental justice	The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies
feedstock	The raw material furnished to a machine or process
fly ash	Fine particulate, essentially noncombustible refuse, carried in a gas stream from a furnace
fossil fuel	Any hydrocarbon deposit that may be used for fuel; examples are coal, petroleum, and natural gas
Geographic Information System	A computer system for capturing, storing, checking, integrating, manipulating, analyzing, and displaying data related to positions on the Earth's surface
glacial till	Unsorted and unstratified drift consisting of a heterogeneous mixture of clay, sand, gravel, and boulders that is deposited by and underneath a glacier
greenhouse gas	A gas, such as carbon dioxide or methane, that contributes to potential climate change
groundwater	The supply of fresh water contained in pores and fractures beneath the surface of the Earth that often supplies wells and springs
hammer mill	A grinding machine that pulverizes feed and other products by several rows of thin hammers revolving at high speed; or, a type of impact mill or crusher in which materials are reduced in size by hammers revolving rapidly in a vertical plane within a steel casing
hemicellulose	A type of polysaccharide (carbohydrate) found in plant cell walls in association with cellulose and lignin
lacustrine	Belonging to or produced by lakes
lignin	A substance that together with cellulose forms the woody cell walls of plants and cements them together
loess	An essentially unconsolidated, unstratified, calcareous silt; commonly it is homogeneous, permeable, and buff to gray in color
Mercalli scale	A 12-step scale developed to fit construction conditions in the United States and used to classify the magnitude of an earthquake; its values range from I (not felt except by a very few people) to XII (damage total)
mollisol	An order of soils that have a dark surface horizon, are formed from nutrient-rich parent material, and are commonly found in grasslands
Mound Builders	Name given to those people who built mounds in a large area from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico and from the Mississippi River to the Appalachian Mountains; the greatest concentrations of mounds are found in the Mississippi and Ohio Valleys
National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)	Standards established by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that apply to outdoor air throughout the country; the regulated pollutants, called criteria pollutants, are sulfur dioxide, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, lead, and two size classes of particulate matter

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	The Federal statute that is the national charter for protection of the environment; NEPA is implemented by procedures issued by the Council on Environmental Quality and the U.S. Department of Energy
non-potable	Not suitable for drinking
palustrine	Being, living, or thriving in a marsh
perennial (referring to streams or rivers)	A stream or river that contains water at all times except during extreme drought
perennial (referring to plants)	A plant that lives for an indefinite period, dying back seasonally and then producing new growth
potable	Suitable for drinking
Quaternary	The second period of the Cenozoic geologic era, following the Tertiary, and including the last 2 million to 3 million years
ravine	A small, narrow valley with steeply sloping sides
riparian area	An area located along a riverbank
runoff	The part of precipitation, snowmelt, or irrigation water that runs off the land into streams or other surface-water; runoff can carry pollutants from the air and land into the receiving waters
sequestration	The process by which carbon dioxide is removed from the atmosphere and for some period retained; carbon dioxide is most commonly sequestered by plants
siltation	The accumulation of stream-deposited silt
switchgrass	A native Iowa grass that is attractive as a biomass crop because (1) its cultivation results in less soil, pesticide, and fertilizer runoff than do row crops such as corn or soybeans; (2) it grows well on marginal land; and (3) it sequesters significant amounts of carbon dioxide into the soil
vertic	Pertaining to soil having a field texture of 35 percent or more clay that experiences significant shrinking and swelling resulting from drying and wetting
watershed	The drainage area of a stream or river
wetland	An area that is regularly saturated by surface water or groundwater and subsequently is characterized by a prevalence of vegetation that is adapted for life in saturated soil conditions

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